

VALLEY-FREE-PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION / NEWSPAPER

VOL. 3 NO. 10 DECEMBER 2000 - JANUARY 2001



**WILL THE NEW
MORNING CALL
OWNER CUT
DISCRIMINATION
PROTECTION AND
DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS
FOR GAY AND LESBIAN EMPLOYEES?
READ TRISH SULLIVAN'S ARTICLE ON PAGE**

LAMBDA REPRESENTATIVE BOB PILEGGI TO SPEAK ON FREEDOM TO MARRY AT GMLV MEETING IN JANUARY

The community is encouraged to attend this important presentation, January 27, at 7pm at the UUCLV community room, 424 Center St. Bethlehem. Bob will discuss Lambda's efforts to make the recognition of same-sex relationships legal in the US. A former Muhlenberg student, Bob now coordinates Lambdas National Freedom to Marry Day. This will be an open event, hosted by Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley for the entire Lehigh Valley GLBT community. For info: 610-866-7652.



A CHORUS CELEBRATING

ACC
W O M E N

**PRESENTS THEIR ANNUAL
WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:**

CAMBIATA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00 pm at the Baker Theatre, in the Trexler Pavilion at Muhlenberg College. Before the concert, at 6pm, there will be an Artist's Circle where hand-made work will be offered for sale. Tickets are \$12, Students \$6. For tickets or further information call 610-760-1759.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

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-NEW LV GLBT YOUTH SOCIAL GROUP PLANNED- PAGE 5
-VFP LAUDS LV GROUPS' SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS- PAGE 7**



**METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH LV
INVITES THE
GAY, LESBIAN,
BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY TO A SPECIAL
CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE**

**10PM, DECEMBER 24,
AT 424 CENTER STREET
BETHLEHEM**

PRIDE PLANS NATIONAL FREEDOM TO MARRY DAY EVENT

Pride of the Lehigh Valley announces plans to host a Freedom to Marry Day event on Friday, February 9, at UUCLV, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. This special event is still being planned, but it will include the blessing of unions by MCCLV at 7pm and a dance in celebration of National Freedom to Marry Day at 8pm.

The February issue of VFP will include an updated article with full details of this event. Additional organizations and churches may be involved. To get further information now or to volunteer to help, contact Pride by email <pridelv@hotmail.com>, call the pridelv voicemail (610-770-6200) or check the web address (www.pridelv.org). To contact MCCLV for more info on the blessings, or to have your own union blessed, contact MCCLV by calling 610-954-7775, or through the <website <http://mcclv.tripod.com/MCCLV>>.

PRIDE
LEHIGH
VALLEY

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations requesting VFP to publish information maintain a similar policy.



Planet Parenthood

edited by Emily Dugan

It's a VFP December tradition to ask Lehigh Valley GLBT families to tell us what they and their kids will be doing for the holidays. Here's what these local families say:

On Christmas Eve these two lesbian moms tell us they and their daughter will go to NY where all of one of the mom's family lives. They'll all attend a Catholic mass that the family goes to every year. "Then we plan to spend Christmas day at home with lots of food and presents," says one of the moms, "Until then our daughter and I will be working on turning her artwork from Kindergarten (it's amazing how much work this kid brings home) into special gifts for the family (We framed some of her really cute drawings for her grandparents.)"

This gay dad writes, "My daughter, now 30 years old, and I share a long holiday tradition of going on a special outing (lunch, concert or special holiday presentation). With the welcome addition to the family of my grandson, we continue the tradition, but with his joy in mind. This year we are going to the old Wanamaker's Dept. Store (aka Lord and Taylor) in Philadelphia for the traditional light show. Of course we'll have lunch first at a favorite Italian restaurant on Broad Street (grownups deserve some treats too)."

These two lesbian "Nanas" are busily working on the gifts they plan to give their twin grandsons for both Hanukkah and Christmas. "We were asked by the boys, now 3 1/2, to take them to see 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas.' Their two moms, were thrilled at the idea, since they seem to be desperate to get a few hours away from the kids to get some holiday stuff done. One of the boys put on his Santa list that he wanted his own set of living room furniture, but we're giving them cowboy outfits."

"This is the first year that our daughter (almost 3) really understands about Santa Claus," explains one of her moms. "She is very concerned about the details, like how Santa will know to bring extra toys for her new baby sister next year. So we decided to stay home and have a quiet time with just our daughter, the two of us, and a favorite aunt. We had the option to travel and be with more extended family, but our daughter would have spent the whole time worrying if Santa would know where to find her!"

This lesbian mom emailed us, "This is the first holiday season my family will be spending together without my grandmother (she died last mother's day) so it is kind of a sad time for us. Just before she passed away, my dad made a video of her birthday celebration. I'm glad we'll be able to share it with my daughter as she grows up."

This very dedicated PFLAG mom and dad report, "We'll both be in New York City during Hanukkah and just prior to Christmas in the continuing effort to remodel a co-op for our daughter and...her partner. I almost said daughter-in-law, but it's not 'law.'"

We also got a wonderful email from a lesbian couple who have been together for over 20 years and who are now going through the process to adopt an Asian child. They will probably get the baby in the summer. Their email just said, "Happy Holidays! We're looking forward to NEXT Christmas."

May your days be merry and bright! Happy Holidays from Planet Parenthood.

19TH STREET MOVIES

19th Street Theatre Films schedule. Dec. 26-3: The Broken Hearts Club- Featuring an all-gay character story about a year in the life of six young gay friends. Jan 1: Spike and Mike's Festival of Animation. January 2-7: What's Cooking?- American families gather for Thanksgiving feasts. Jan. 6-14: Dancer in the Dark- 4 star controversial and captivating tragedy. Jan. 13-21: Goya in Bordeaux- The Spanish artist Francisco de Goya. Call for times and latest information: 610-432-0888.

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise,

I have been watching my portfolio and I'm terribly uncomfortable with the downturn of the market. What should I do? Signed, Concerned Investor.

Dear Concerned,

There certainly has been some volatility in the market for year 2000, but you need to look at your situation from a broad point of view. Unfortunately, we have been spoiled by the last 4 years of 20% growth on our investments. Let me give you some historical rates of returns for various asset classes.

Historically, small-company stocks have returned a bit more than 12 percent on average annually; large company stocks, a little more than 11 percent; and long and intermediate-term Treasury bills have returned 5 percent a year, while short-term Treasury bills have returned 3.8 percent on average over the 74 year period tracked by Ibbotson Associates, a market research and consulting firm in Chicago. International stocks have earned more than 12 percent on average annually since the 1970's, according to Morgan Stanley's global index. Inflation has averaged about 3 percent a year. A diversified portfolio of stocks, bonds and cash has returned 7 percent to 10 percent, depending on the percentages held in each asset class. It is important to note that the stock returns are for a well-diversified portfolio. If your portfolio is concentrated in just one or two industries, you may earn significantly MORE or LESS than the market averages.

Your whole objective is to buy "low" and sell "high." Getting out of the market at this juncture is a classic mistake. If you are not investing in the current market, you may be missing the perfect opportunity to buy at a "discount." You should also ask yourself, when will you need this money? If it is for retirement, stay the course and continue to invest. Diversify your investments by using several asset classes as a key defense against volatility in one area. If you will need to purchase a new car in 2 years with some of this money, just be sure you are investing conservatively.

January is a perfect time to put your goals for the future on paper and making a plan to follow through on them. Best of luck in the New Year!

Denise McKelvey is a local financial advisor. Readers should recognize that this column is one opinion and may not apply to their financial situation.

GMLV EVENTS SCHEDULE

Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley Upcoming Events: December 9: "Queer as Folk" Part II. December 23: no meeting. January 13, 2001: Movie- "Defying Gravity. January 27: "Freedom to Marry Update" with Bob Pileggi of Lambda Legal Defense. Bob coordinates National Freedom to Marry Day. He will discuss the recent legal changes in Vermont and the Netherlands. Bob will have information about Lambda's fight against the Boy Scouts of America's discriminatory policy. This will be an open event, for the entire Lehigh Valley GLBT community. GMLV meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7pm at UUCLV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, unless otherwise noted. Refreshments are served, a \$1 donation is requested. For info: 610-866-7652.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS AT 1ST NIGHT

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus will perform two concerts at First Night Bethlehem 2001. After a successful appearance at First Night 2000, the LVGMC has been invited to appear in the 10th anniversary edition of this year's event. The LVGMC will perform at Christ UCC Church, 75 E. Market St., Bethlehem, from 5:00 pm to 5:40 pm and 7:00pm to 7:40 pm. Contact First Night Bethlehem at 610-332-1050 for ticket locations. Or visit LVGMC's website, <www.lvgmc.org>, for information.

HOT NEWS

B&N G&L BOOKCLUB

The Barnes & Noble GLBT bookclub meets on 1/23 to discuss the book *Like People in History* by Felice Picano. The February 20 meeting discussion will be about *Tipping the Velvet* by Sarah Waters. Both meetings start at 7:00 pm in the Barnes and Noble Whitehall store cafe.

RAINBOW BOWLING

Rainbow bowling is now Thursdays only at Parkway Lanes at 8pm. Everyone in the rainbow community is welcome to stop by and bowl. There will no longer be Rainbow bowling on Tuesdays at Mountainville Lanes. For further info contact Scott: 610 691-8303.

EXIT POLLS PRO-VERMONT UNIONS

The Associated Press reported that its exit polls showed a slim majority of Vermonters favor civil unions. In particular, the AP reported that 27% of respondents were "enthusiastic" about the law, and another 25% described themselves as "supportive." 32% of Vermonters described themselves as "opposed" to the law, and 14% described themselves as "angry." That adds up to 52% in favor of the civil union law and 46% opposed. It is a significant moment in history that some states are now actually showing a majority of mainstream voters in support of legal same-sex unions, when only a few years ago less than 20% of the population supported legal recognition.

UUCV SCHEDULE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley services: December 24, 10:30 am: Dedication children, stories of holidays past and lighting the candles of Jesus and Kwanzaa in a celebration for all ages. Music: Eclectic Ensemble. Christmas Eve Family Service, 7pm. - "The Gifts of Christmas" With singing and stories of gifts from our past. Music: Debbie Davis, cello; Nora Suggs, flute; Monica Toth, violin. Worship Coordinator Rev. Sue Turner. December 31, 10:30 am: Celebration of Kwanzaa, a service on creativity for the new year. Music: Dave Roper, piano.

UUCV Breakfast Forum: Meets every Sunday at 9 am in the gym for bagels, coffee, and a presentation followed by discussion. December 17: "UU History" Discussion Leader: Ginnie Blocker. December 24 and 31: Open forum.

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GLORA EVENTS

The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown announces these upcoming social events: Dec 31-New Year's Eve Potluck, Jan 6- Holiday Potluck (adults only), Jan 28- Anti-superbowl, Super Bowl Social Event and potluck.

For more information or to receive the GLORA newsletter write: GLORA, PO Box 1952 Allentown, PA 18105-1952 or email <GLORAinPA@aol.com>.

MCCLV HONORS PRESENTED

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley held a banquet last month to honor members of its congregation and the community. The awards and recipients were: **Rainbow Service Award** for MCCLV congregants who have tangibly lived out MCC's mission to be a "Christ-centered community church sharing God's love and grace with all people through worship, fellowship and service," went to: Joe Canto, Sue Carpenter, Weston Ely Carpenter, Diane, G and S, Mary, Terry G, Barb Baus, Cathy Burgi, John, Jerry, Manuel Diaz, Elaine Ely, Tom Endy, Christopher Gabellini, Maureen Gilmeyer, Les, Kevin, Jacqueline Marish, Feather Sneagle, Kecia McMillian, Dale Parkhurst, Dawn Ross, Ed Verba, Judy Woodruff, Anthony Young, Eric Yurkanin, and Steve Ziminsky.

The Teddy Bear Care Award for the MCCLV congregant who most exhibited a willingness to touch others with a generous spirit of caring went to: Joe Canto.

Spirit of Courage Award was for the Lehigh Valley citizen(s) who has believed in what is possible, rather than relying solely on what is actual ("we walk by faith, not by sight"). The Spirit of Courage Award presented to a person(s) in the Lehigh Valley who actively champion the Rainbow Community with an enthusiastic spirit and hefty amount of courage went to: Liz Bradbury and Trish Sullivan.

Shepherd's Staff Award went to the MCCLV congregant who was "steady" in their lifting up of the church community. Furthermore, it was for the congregant who exhibited a strong commitment to the growth of MCCLV and, lastly, this congregant will have exhibited a deep commitment to growing their own spiritual maturity. Awarded to: Manuel Diaz.

Rev. Elizabeth Goudy was also honored by the congregation on the one year anniversary of her leadership of MCCLV and for her significant work and the positive changes she has accomplished in this short time.

ASC ORNAMENT

AIDS Service Center invites you to support its vital programs through the purchase of its collector's edition holiday ornament. This year's design features the Star of Hope which is symbolic of the hope we hold for the future and the conviction it will take to get us there. The center of the star has five interlocking red ribbons. They are \$15. Contact: ASC at 610-974-8701.

DIAMONZ BINGO FOR F.A.C.T.

Don't forget Sunday Bingo at Diamonz, at 1913 Broad Street, Bethlehem, 5pm every Sunday. Cash prizes, give-aways, all benefiting FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together).

NATIONAL PRIDE THEME

"Embrace Diversity" was the theme chosen for 2001 at the National InterPride Conference in Atlanta in October. The theme is particularly appropriate for a Pride movement that is increasingly international and inclusive of many different communities. The theme received five times as many votes as any other one. Pride Festivals all over the U.S. will be adopting the theme "Embrace Diversity," for 2001.

PFLAG SCHEDULE

PFLAG- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, announces upcoming meeting dates: December 20: Reading PFLAG meeting, January 14, 2001: Bethlehem meeting, January 17: Reading meeting, February 11: Bethlehem meeting, February 21: Reading meeting- Call for the location of the Reading meeting, it will be changing in January or February. The LV group meets at NCC in the Student Union Building. Call 610-967-5219 for information.

PA-GALA ALSO THANKS

We forgot to mention last month that PA-GALA gratefully thanks Gail Hoover, Tracy Denton, Allyson Hamm, Elizabeth Goff, Trish Sullivan and Celia Alvarado for becoming official poll watchers for their voting wards in Allentown and calling voters who had not yet appeared at the polls. PA-GALA further thanks Gail Hoover and Tracy Denton for helping Liz and Trish call hundreds of people on the PA-GALA registered voter list to remind them to go to the polls. It was the work of these people and other dedicated volunteers that helped pro-equal rights candidates like State Representative Jennifer Mann, win by a landslide majority (Mann won more than 70% of the votes in her district).

CALENDAR 4

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.760.1759
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/laids
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

As If Productions- Documentary Film Makers
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay & Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.

Bowling- Tuesday Nights, Mountainville Lanes, 610-691-8303

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

Enigma Players 610-432-0706

EQUAL at Lucent Technologies 610.712.5532

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GLEE-gay and lesbian empowered employees at Air Products

GLASS-at Lehigh Univ. Every other Thursday 6pm, 2nd fl. Lambertson Hall, 610.758.3469

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagrathollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassie. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA18105-1952, email-GLORAinPA@AOL.COM

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O. Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball, Tennis, Racquet Ball 610.434.2966.

GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.954.7775

Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family and Friends 1st Monday each month 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem. 610-758-8642

KS- Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at 6:30pm, Contact: Chris at 610-868-0248

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays, UUCLV Bethlehem. 610.366.3320, steveo@early.com

MCC- Metropolitan Community Church, office-424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775

NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday from 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge), College Center call 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 882-2531

NEPATA-NorthEast PA Transgender Assoc see Renaissance

19th St/Civic Theatre - 610-432-8943

NCFM- New Covenant Family Ministries, Sundays, 11am, Open Space Gallery, 610-791-0716 / 740-3097, email NCFM98@aol.com

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Information Booklet, and Political Lobbying) P.O. Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449

PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 2nd Sundays 3pm 610.967.5219

Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Film Festival - In July... 215.790.1510.

Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.pride.lv.org>


DECEMBER 2000 HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM VFP

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 ACCO at Banana Factory KS	2 WDIY GLOSS
3 ADVENT MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	4 RAA	5 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	6 T.O. Master Class	7 ACCO Bowling RAA GLOSS	8 KS	9 GMLV WDIY movie GLOSS
10 PFLAG MCC ADVENT WDIY NCFM UUCLV	11 RAA	12 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	13 Reading PFLAG	14 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	15 T.O.	16 T.O. WDIY GLOSS GAME NIGHT
17 MCC ADVENT WDIY NCFM UUCLV	18 RAA	19 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	20	21 ACCO RAA Solstice Concert Hanukkah	22 KS	23 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
24 Candlelight MCC Service UUCLV	25 	26 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	27	28 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	29 KS	30 WDIY GLOSS
31 GLORA LVGMC						

JANUARY 2001 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: I WILL WORK FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA 19TH ST MOVIE All month	2 Bowling GLOSS 19TH ST MOVIE	3 19TH ST MOVIE	4 RAA Bowling GLOSS 19TH ST MOVIE	5 19TH ST MOVIE KS	6 WDIY 19TH ST MOVIE GLOSS GLORA
7 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	8 RAA	9 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC	10 Reading PFLAG	11 ACCO Bowling RAA GLOSS	12 KS	13 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
14 PFLAG MCC WDIY UUCLV	15 RAA ML KING DAY	16 GLOSS LVGMC	17	18 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	19 KS	20 GLOSS WDIY
21 GLOSS MCC game WDIY night NCFM UUCLV	22 RAA	23 B&N GLOSS Bookclub LVGMC	24	25 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	26 KS	27 GMLV WDIY Bob Pileggi GLOSS
28 GLORA MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	29 RAA	30 GLOSS LVGMC	31			

FEBRUARY 2001 CELEBRATE FREEDOM TO MARRY DAY BY GETTING A VERMONT CIVIL UNION

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 RAA GLOSS Bowling	2 KS	3 WDIY GLOSS
4 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	5 RAA	6 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC	7 Reading PFLAG	8 ACCO Bowling RAA GLOSS	9 PRIDE NTFMD EVENT KS	10 GMLV WDIY movie GLOSS
11 PFLAG MCC WDIY UUCLV	12 RAA	13 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC	14 	15 RAA Bowling GLOSS ACCO	16 KS	17 GLOSS WDIY
18 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	19 RAA	20 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC	21	22 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	23 KS	24 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
25 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	26 RAA	27 Bowling GLOSS LVGMC	28			

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs., Episcopal Church 16th and Turner, Atown
Ren - Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., PO Box 3624 Atown, PA 18016
 610-821-2955 renlv@ren.org
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG - 610.488.7533 or 670.8029
Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church - A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball (Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
SC - Susquehanna Camping Club- 503 General Sutter Ave. Lititz, PA 17543, www.paonline.com/outdoors
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
TST - Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth. 610-867-1689, touchstone@nnti.com
Unity - 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449
WDIV - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30 pm Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way Out- 610.694.8100

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW BOWLING- EVERY THURSDAY

GLOSS RACQUETBALL TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

BINGO FOR FACT- AT DIAMONZ- SUNDAYS

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL GAY/ STRAIGHT ALLIANCE 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS

READING PFLAG- DEC 20

ACCO SOLISTICE CONCERT W/ CAMBIATA AT MUHLENBERG- DECEMBER 21

UUCLV CHRISTMAS EVE (DAY) SERVICE

MCCLY CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

19TH ST MOVIE

BROKEN HEARTS CLUB- DEC 26- FEB 3

GLORA POTLUCK

UUCLV KWANZA SERVICE

GAY MEN'S CHORUS @ 1ST NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM NEW YEAR'S EVE

19TH ST MOVIE - SPIKE AND MIKE'S ANIMATION JANUARY 1

19TH ST MOVIE - WHAT'S COOKING JANUARY 2-7

19TH ST MOVIE - DANCER IN THE CARK JANUARY 6-14

GLORA POTLUCK - JAN 6

MCCLY WORKSHOP - JAN 7

GMV MOVIE - JAN 13

19TH ST MOVIE - GOYA - JAN 13-21

LEHIGH VALLEY PFLAG - JAN 14

MCC M.L. KING SERVICE - JAN 14

MCC WORKSHOP - JAN 21

GLOSS GAME NIGHT - JAN 21

B & N BOOK CLUB - JAN 23

BOB PILEGGI AT GMV - JAN 27

SUPER BOWL / ANTI BOWL GLORA PARTY - JAN 28

PRIDE, MCC NITMD EVENT - FEB 9

READING PFLAG - FEB 11

MCC NITMD SERVICE - FEB 11

B & N BOOK CLUB - FEB 20

THE INFORMATION IN THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL TO CONFIRM. TO POST INFO CONTACT VFP - 610-432-5449 EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

REPORT ON FIRST LV PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GAY / STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

Liberty High School has a new Gay-Straight Alliance. The group, called Mission:Equality, began principally through the efforts of Tia Gross, a Liberty senior and George VanDoren an English teacher. Carolyn Pfaff, LHS staff member and Barbara Burkhardt, counselor, also helped form the group. Meetings are at 7pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at LHS. Upcoming activities include a trip to Muhlenberg for the ACCO concert, and a caroling session on December 22. Meetings will resume after the holidays on January 11. The group hopes to continue to engage in a mixture of social and socially conscious activities.

A letter introducing the group to Liberty staff states, "We think that the time has come for Liberty to have an organization that promotes equality throughout the student body, an organization that begins to address the needs of our nation's most overlooked minority: our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students. To that end we are establishing Mission: Equality in hopes of bringing together these students and their heterosexual peers in an effort to engender understanding and encourage dialogue. And, like any group, we plan to have fun activities that our members will enjoy."

So far the GSA has had three meetings with attendance of 10 to 16 LHS students each evening. Tia Gross notes that the group is looking for program suggestions.

CIVIL UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOE AND DAVID
BEST WISHES FROM LIZ AND TRISH

NEW GLBT YOUTH GROUP BEING PLANNED

Concerned members of the GLBT community are working with several organizations to support the start-up of a Lehigh Valley GLBT Youth organization that will afford the young people in the community a social group open to all Lehigh Valley GLBT teens. After carefully checking with other youth organizations like VYH and the new Liberty High School Gay/Straight Alliance - Mission: Equality, the community has confirmed that while these groups are meeting some of the needs of some area youth, there still is no group that will allow all Lehigh Valley GLBT youth to have the same kind of social interaction that is available to straight youth.

Area GLBT Youth have indicated that besides having regular meetings they would like to hold a dance, organize trips, participate in the Pride festival and parade, and be involved in other activities that support civil rights causes in the Lehigh Valley. This new organization would create a framework for these activities to take place.

At this time, planners anticipate the first meetings will begin either late January or early February. Several people have already volunteered to work with this group, if you are interested in volunteering, call Tracy at 610-797-6534.

NOT PINK, PINKIE

Did you know? In the 1920's, gay men often wore red neckties as a way to discreetly disclose their sexual orientation to others in the know. Prior to that wearing a green carnation on the lapel was the key, and for several hundred years before that, a pinkie ring on one's left hand would get the message across. (information from the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle by way of the PFLAG Newsletter.)



From the Bradbury-Sullivan Collection

This tintype photograph circa 1880, is typical of what is now known as "affectionate tintypes." It shows two men holding hands, the pinkie ring is visible on the left hand. Photos of this sort required the subject to sit still for up to 15 minutes. Holding hands was no accident. At some point in time this tintype was folded, effectively striking out the image of one of the men, perhaps on purpose. These "affectionate tintypes" are not as rare as one would think.

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editors with questions
about gay and lesbian issues.



Dear WTA, Every Saturday I see listings on the Morning Call's religion page for many denominations. I think MCC should be listed on that page. Why aren't they? **Signed Call Reader**

Dear C. R., Good question. We contacted Rev. Elizabeth Goudy of MCC and asked why they aren't listed. She explained congregations have to pay for those ads and this years MCC's ad budget didn't cover it. VFP called the Morning Call. The cheapest listing is about \$15 per week. So here's an idea C. R., why not put your money where your suggestion is and give a donation to MCC of \$180 to cover one ad per month for a year.

Dear WTA,

Sometimes you have articles about local businesses and at other times you seem to avoid them. Is there some kind of criteria? **Signed Looking for Coverage**

Dear LFC,

Yes, we do have guidelines. We will cover non-profit organizations or endeavors that we feel benefit the community. We'll also include articles about events by "for-profit" businesses if they are set up to, at least in part, benefit "non-profit" groups. So if you have a business that is going to put on an event that will benefit FACT, PRIDE, the Gay Men's Chorus or other group mentioned in VFP, we'll put in an article about it. Or if your company makes a donation to a non-profit group, we'll cover that too. We reserve the right to evaluate the circumstances and we give preference to events that benefit the GLBT community.

Dear WTA,

I liked the addition of the "Civil Union Announcement" section last month. **Signed Scott Laubner**

Dear Scott,

We're glad you liked it and plan to continue it. See page 3. **Couples who have gotten a "Vermont civil union" and want to be listed, can contact VFP by phone (610-432-5449) or email: kiztrish@aol.com with information. Your union will be listed in the next month's issue.**

MCC SCHEDULE

December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 10 pm (NO 5:50pm service). December 25-30 Office Closed, Pastor out of town. December 31: Regularly scheduled 5:50 pm service. Join us, then join Bethlehem for "First Night." January 7: Worship Workshop for Ushers, Acolytes, Communion Servers and Candle Lighters. January 14: Service in Celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Special reading of "Letter From A Birmingham Jail." January 21: Worship Workshop for Readers, Lay Worship Leaders, Prayers of the People and Singspiration. February 9: National Freedom to Marry Day Blessing of Unions. February 11: Service in Celebration of NFTMD. All services and events at 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Call MCC for further details: 610-954-7775.

GLOSS NEWS

The next GLOSS (Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society) game night will be January 21. Check the GLOSS hot line : 610-434-2966, or log on to the web pages for details. To check the Lehigh Valley GLBT Community Calendar, brought to you by GLOSS, log on to: (Summary) - <http://www.gloss.org/eventlist.html> (For December) <http://www.gloss.org/december2000.html>. To list events on the calendar email additions to cfabio@early.com. Allow two weeks for posting..

ANOTHER VIEW BY WILL FETTERMAN

GAY MUSIC II: AARON COPLAND

The year 2000 marks the centennial year of the birth of American composer Aaron Copland. The 2000-2001 season promises several CDs to mark the occasion, including rare historical recordings, as well as newly researched and reconstructed scores that have been long neglected. Some have already been released and are recommended, follow in this appreciation. Several CDs as yet in progress, should be available within the next few months of the new year.

By far the most prominent Copland CD of 2000 is Michael Tilson Thomas conducting the San Francisco Symphony in new recordings of *Billy the Kid*, *Appalachian Spring*, and *Rodeo*. All three works were originally created as ballet music, choreographed respectively by Eugene Loring, Martha Graham, and Agnes De Mille. This is the body of work for which Copland is most known by the general public. They were written between the late 1930s and the mid-1940s, and are from what is called his "Common Man" or "Americana" period. These works all feature clear and elegant melodic writing, the incorporation of familiar folk songs, and a sure use of classical orchestration.

Thomas brings out the various shades of emotional content in these works, which range from boisterous and brassy to quiet and reflective. Especially welcome is the opportunity to hear both *Billy the Kid* and *Appalachian Spring* in their entirety (many previous recordings are of the abridged suite versions). These two works especially reveal a sense of theatre which I believe is the very reason Copland has endured. Quite simply, Copland was able to be elegant by being obvious without the usual "corniness" that so often permeates American culture.

Another recording I highly recommend is the double-CD *A Copland Celebration, Volume 2: Chamber Music and Rarities*. This collection ranges from early work in the 1920s through the final years of productivity in the 1970s. Here, one sees more of the scope and variety in Copland's composition, which has usually been overlooked. The "Sextet for Clarinet, Piano and String Quartet" (1937) has a cool, neo-classical sparseness in its light-textured and angular writing; while the late work, "Duo for Flute and Piano" (1971) has a grace and charm that is relaxed yet assured. "Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson" has become one of the most esteemed song-sets within the American art song tradition. While many of the recordings here are several decades old, the transfers have a fresh, clean sound. Volumes 1 and 3 in this series, not reviewed, contain orchestral works, songs and opera.

Most important within the context of this appreciation is the fact that Copland was a gay man. Contemporary biographies make no secret about this aspect of his life. That said, the question is, what does this have to do with music? Is there such a thing as "gay music"? What distinguishes one instrumental piece from another as "gay" vs. "straight"? This question has been debated among queer academics for over ten years now, without any resolution.

My own answer is that as a gay man, I want to know about artists who were / are gay, in order to find out what emotional and/or intellectual resonance their work might have with my own life experience. In the case of Aaron Copland, what I treasure most is not the loud enthusiasm of "Hoedown" from *Rodeo* (one of his most familiar pieces), but the quiet, melancholy moments in *Billy the Kid* or *Quiet City* or the final third of his film score for *Our Town*. This is music that says "I'm lonely." Copland was able to say this in music with simplicity, refinement, and honesty. And it is this type of statement, rather than military or political posturing, that provides me with a healthy model of patriotism.

This is the twentieth column Will Fetterman has written for the Valley Free Press. The editors applaud Will for his hard work, ability to cover broad topics of interest to the GLBT community, and extraordinary faithfulness to deadline. It's not easy to write columns like this and we hope Will will keep doing it for VFP for a long time. Thanks Will!

A VIEW FROM A DYKE

BY LIZ BRADBURY

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HONORING EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This column is about a few outstanding accomplishments achieved this year by some of the groups in our community. I'm not going to mention the enormous everyday work our local organizations do to achieve their extensive goals and missions. While they all deserve our praise and thanks, I wanted to take this chance to recall some of the really special things that groups accomplished this year.

The criteria for singling out these accomplishments is this: These must be specific actions to create change or challenge intolerance. These must be first time or one time only history making events unique to this year. They must be beyond the regular mission of the group. They must be actual achievements, not just efforts. Each of these accomplishments must have required bravery and risks, been "out" in the open, demanded attention from those outside the GLBT community, and actually have helped to make the Lehigh Valley a more tolerant place. And the winners are...

PA-GALA: Steve Black's astounding campaign, victory, and attendance as the first openly gay delegate from the Lehigh Valley to the Democratic Convention. His election, was preceded by one of the highest numbers of signatures on a campaign petition, he won over six other candidates, and coverage of his efforts made the front page of the Morning Call twice, including a large photo.

LV-PFLAG: The first pro-gay message billboard in the Lehigh Valley. It got newspaper and TV coverage and sent a loud and clear message to tens of thousands of Lehigh Valley citizens that GLBT people are part of their every day lives.

MCC: The unprecedented financial donations to 14 gay and straight minority organizations. And the significant gift of GLBT reference books to the Bethlehem Library which resulted in the first LV public library display of such books.

PRIDE: The extensive effort to stretch the Pride Festival to all corners of the Lehigh Valley, especially the GLBT Pride Film Festival taking place in five different colleges on consecutive nights.

EQUAL: The organization and sponsorship (with Pride and UUCLV) of the Love Makes A Family Photo Exhibit in the windows of the Bethlehem Library.

UUCLV: Formally achieving and then proudly advertising their confirmation as a welcoming (GLBT supportive) congregation.

Valley Free Press: Success (with the help of Travis Simmons) in challenging the local Borders Books and getting them to abolish the policy prohibiting gay-teens from purchasing a gay teen magazines.

Renaissance: (with support from Equal and PFLAG) Sponsoring the first seminar on transgender issues in the Lehigh Valley.

AS IF Productions, Steve Libby and Anne Daves: Making the documentaries, getting terrific media coverage about them, and then creating a whole new organization dedicated to the production of films on minority and disenfranchised people.

ACCO, Bev Morgan: The "Design for Racial Justice" project which challenged public middle school students to confront discrimination. It also created incredible new musical works conceived, in part, by children.

Mission: Equality, the Gay / Straight Alliance at Liberty High School, Tia Gross and George VanDoren: The first Gay / Straight Alliance in a Lehigh Valley Public High School.

Additional recognition goes to: **Muhlenberg College** for proudly and loudly announcing its same-sex domestic partners benefits plan.

I also want to mention a few informal Lehigh Valley groups that are run by volunteers who take joy in simply providing fun and support for LV GLBT people. These groups aren't incorporated, they get no grants, have no staff or boards, they just are. GLOSS, GLORA, Kindred Spirits, Rainbow Bowling, Gay Men of LV and the Enigma Players.

All the other groups deserve no less praise, they've created music and theater, raised money for people with AIDS/HIV, provided spiritual support, created safe spaces in area businesses and should be mentioned, but I'm out of room. I'll talk about them another time. Meanwhile, read about their important contributions to the community

THEY CAN GIVE THEM, THEY CAN TAKE THEM AWAY BY TRISH SULLIVAN

"Same-sex benefits gaining ground," proclaimed an article in the Morning Call, November 19. It said, Muhlenberg, Moravian, Lafayette, and Lucent all offer domestic partner benefits to their gay and lesbian employees and it said (with a photo of Charlie Versaggi) that GLEE (Gay and Lesbian Empowered Employees) at Air Products is working to create a similar plan. This means more gay and lesbian families are gaining the ability to protect their families through their benefits at work.

But, employers still must make a conscious choice to give parity to same-sex domestic partners. In the same article, Lehigh Valley Hospital spokesman Brian Downs was quoted as follows: "We follow all Federal and State regulations with regard to our anti-discrimination policy. Just because we do not mention sexual orientation in the policy doesn't mean we discriminate. We comply with all levels of government." LVH could protect its employees but doesn't because the government doesn't protect us. LVH chooses to hide behind the lack of Federal, State or local laws.

If your employer offers domestic partner benefits, at least you can stop worrying, right? Wrong! The Morning Call, previously owned by the Times Mirror, had an anti-discrimination policy and offered domestic partner benefits. But the new owner, the Tribune Co., **does not** have an anti-discrimination policy which includes sexual orientation, nor does it offer domestic partner benefits. I talked to several Morning Call employees and they don't know what their domestic partner benefits will be when their current contracts expire in 2001. Sherri Rex in the MC Human Resources Department told me no one at the local offices could respond to my questions. She referred me to Jim Osick, Sr. VP for Human Resources at the Tribune Co. in Chicago. I called, but have not been able to speak to him. No one else at the Tribune seems to be allowed to answer these questions. VFP will keep you updated if we can get further information. One thing we do know is that rolling back benefits and protections can happen, because we saw it happen when EXXON merged with Mobile.

The three scenarios: Employers implementing new domestic partner benefits (GOOD!); employers defending their decision not to give domestic partner benefits by hiding behind the lack of laws (Bad); and employers possibly poised to take the away rights and benefits of gay and lesbian employees (WORSE!).

What do we do? Well, we know boycotts don't always work, they have done nothing to get EXXON to change. And after all, it's not the Morning Call doing this, it is the Tribune Company. What has worked, are the actions against Dr. Laura, and locally, the actions PA-GALA took to get Mayor Heydt to reverse his decision to remove employment protections for the gay and lesbian City of Allentown employees (police, fire, clerks etc.). PA-GALA pointed out that the unprecedented removal of the rights of union employees would get negative national publicity and that no mayor in PA had ever taken this kind of action against civil rights. Heydt backed down. With Dr. Laura, letter to her did nothing, it was targeting her potential sponsors who ultimately decided to nix commercials on her show, that succeeded.

We have to understand the Tribune's policy first, then we have to write letters to the editor, to advertisers, and to the Tribune directly. We have to make it clear we won't stand for lame excuses. And we also have to change the laws, which means voting and lobbying. It means all of us have to make New Year's resolutions to become activists. Don't think this isn't something you need to do just because you're not at risk. Probably many at the Morning Call thought that too. When one of us is at risk, we're all at risk.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM VFP

POP QUIZ

1. Who recently said, "I really happen to like Stacy a lot because she's really good for Chas. She's a really nice girl." ? A. Cher B. Madonna
C. Mary Cheney D. Kate Clinton

2. The two biggest gay internet companies, gay.com and Planetout, have merged to become: A. gay.com
B. Planetout Partners C. Planetgay D. Gay Inc.

3. According to voter exit polls in Nov., the percentage of voters openly identifying themselves as gay to pollsters was: A. 1 B. 2 C. 4 D. 15

4. Pittsburgh's Andy Warhol Museum is currently featuring a show of the work of what gay artist of the surrealist period? A. Dali B. Leon Bakst
C. Meret Oppenheim D. Jean Cocteau

5. Actor Jude Law is set to play the part of gay music manager Brian Epstein, who managed the: A. Doors B. Beatles C. Who D. Rolling Stones

6. John Goodman plays a gay man in the new TV sitcom called _____, Ohio.
A. Cleveland B. Zanesville C. Parma D. Normal

7. Who plays the sister in the above series?
A. Joely Fisher B. Laura Dern
C. Nathan Lane D. Christine Baranski

8. What did the openly gay writer of "Frasier" say about the "Dr Laura" show's late night time slot?
A. It's past the "Bitching" hour.
B. It's the only talk show safe for people in the witness protection program.
C. With no one watching she won't have to pretend to be nice anymore.
D. Boycotts actually do work.

9. In the new movie "Before Night Falls," who plays two roles; a prison guard and a drag queen?
A. Antonio Banderas B. Martin Cruz
C. Johnny Depp D. Harvey Fierstein

10. TV character "Bianca Montgomery," daughter of "Erica Kane," will come out as a lesbian in Dec. on:
A. All My Children B. Guiding Light
C. General Hospital D. One Life to Live

1 A 2 B 3 C 4 D 5 B 6 D 7 A 8 B 9 C 10 A

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PA-GALA

Valley Free Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission

GLASS at Lehigh University

Safe-Space at Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV
LV Gay Men's Chorus

GLB Student Union at NCC

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Lucent

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere-Cedar Crest

6th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together)

AIDS OUTREACH

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Service Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity-Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theater

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (lilztrish@aol.com).

QUOTES

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"The services reported that the revised policy on homosexuality had no discernible impact, either positive or negative, on recruitment. There is widespread acceptance of the new policy. It has not been an issue of great debate. In fact, there has been a marked lack of reaction. Generally there has been a mature, pragmatic approach which allowed the policy to succeed. The change in policy has been hailed as a solid achievement."

--From a confidential British military report obtained Nov. 19 by the London newspaper The Observer. Britain's ban on gays in the military was struck down by the European Court of Human Rights in late 1999.

ANOTHER QUOTE

"My father said it on numerous occasions. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. If we exclude and discriminate against any group of people it affects us all. And it's really that simple. The civil rights movement that I believe in, thrives on unity and inclusion ... and so, absolutely, the gay rights movement fits very much into the concept and reflection of what the dream is."

--Yolanda King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., to the Michigan gay newspaper Between The Lines, Nov. 2.

NEW FLORIDA BUMPERSTICKERS

-My parents retired to Florida
and all I got was this lousy President-
-Disney gave us Mickey, Florida gave us Dumbo-
-It ain't over til your brother counts the votes-
-George W. Bush,
the President Quayle we never had-
-The election can't be broken...we just fixed it-
-We put the Duh in Florida-

Distelfink © 'Holidays

by Ruby Zebu 12/00 In Toonland'

So Dis, do you have a date for the holidays?

Yup, I'm calling him now. He was really harassed at work by the eight other employees just because he's 'different.' But because he's so bright, the boss picked him for a tough job, and he did great and got a major promotion. He's so cute too...Hi Rudolph, look

I know you're busy on Christmas but do you have New Years' free...?



Can you believe those other guys were picking on HIM...sure, like that Prancer guy isn't donning gay apparel!

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